



Ten-day Drought Watch For Southern Africa

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Review of the rainfall situation

- Largely dry over central and southern sectors.
- Northern and eastern sectors were consistently wet.

Outlook Highlights (08 - 20 Dec 2004)

- Moderate to heavy rains over northern, eastern and central sectors are expected during the forecast period.
- Madagascar Island has chances of deluges.
- Little rains are expected across south western sectors of South Africa and Namibia.

FORECAST SUMMARY

Moderate to heavy rains are expected over much of the contiguous SADC and the islands states. However ,it will be drier in the southwest of the subregion.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Overall, most of the reporting countries in the SADC region registered rains between 0–90 mm. The island state of Seychelles had over 150 mm. Dry pockets of less than 30 mm were observed over Namibia, southern parts of South Africa, central Zimbabwe and Mauritius. (See Table 1 and Fig. 1).

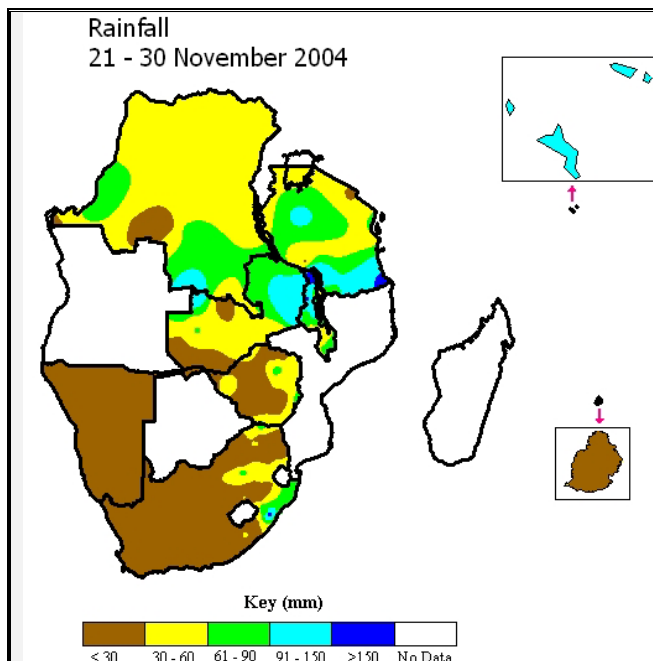


Fig.1 Actual rainfall amounts for the period
21 - 30 November 2004

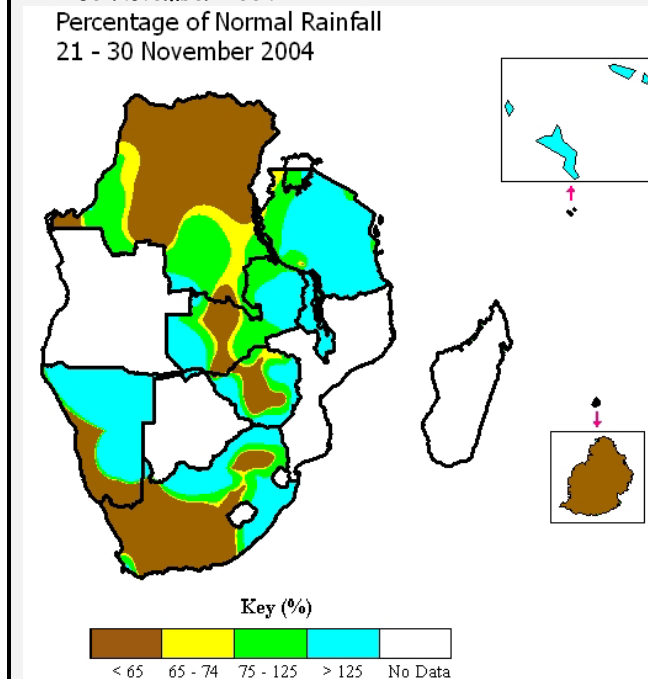


Fig.2: Percentage of normal rainfall for the period
21 - 30 November 2004

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Table 1. Total rainfall amount ranges for SADC countries for 21 - 30 November 2004

Country	Amount in mm
Angola	Data not received
Botswana	Data not received
DRC	60 - 90
Lesotho	Data not received
Malawi	60 - 150
Mauritius	0 - < 30
Mozambique	Data not received
Namibia	0 - < 30
Seychelles	90 - 150
South Africa	30 - 60
Swaziland	Data not received
Tanzania	60 - 150
Zambia	30 - 90
Zimbabwe	0 - < 60

There has been a marked improvement in rainfall activity in the northeastern sector as compared to the first 20 days of November 2004. This is depicted in Fig 1. For instance, DRC, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia reported between 90-150 mm during the last ten days of November. This is significant as far the showing a more sustained start of the persistent rains across the bulk of the northern portions of the region. However, the western and southernmost sections continued to receive scanty rainfall amounts.

The percentage of normal rainfall map shows that northern and central parts of the SADC region had rains between 75 - 125%, consistent with a decent start of the rains in the respective areas. However, northern DRC, western South Africa and Mauritius received rainfall below 65% (Fig 2), raising concern, especially for the southern areas.

SYNOPTIC REVIEW
21 – 30 NOVEMBER 2004

The anticyclonic circulation overlying the continental SADC region during the period under review, suppressed rainfall activity. Thus dry conditions continued over central and southern sectors. Meantime, northwestern Zambia, much of DRC, Tanzania and Malawi continued to enjoy wet conditions due to the influence of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), the main rain bearing system, in the proximity of these areas.

DETAILED SECTOR OUTLOOK FOR
PERIOD 08 – 20 Dec 2004

The medium range forecast models consistent with the current conditions are projecting the middle level (500 hPa) trough lying to the western coast of the continental SADC region. This is expected to move eastward and overlie the continental SADC region during the latter part of the forecast period. It will significantly increase rainfall activity across the southern portion of the subregion. At the same time, DRC, Angola, northwestern parts of Zambia, Malawi and northern Mozambique will continue receiving rains from time to time.

A deep low pressure system is expected to form over the Mozambique Channel by Sunday 12 Dec 2004. At the same time, ITCZ, which is the main rain bearing system in the northern portion of the region should continue to make its erratic southward shift. At this point, the ITCZ will affect more areas especially the northern and central portions of the subregion

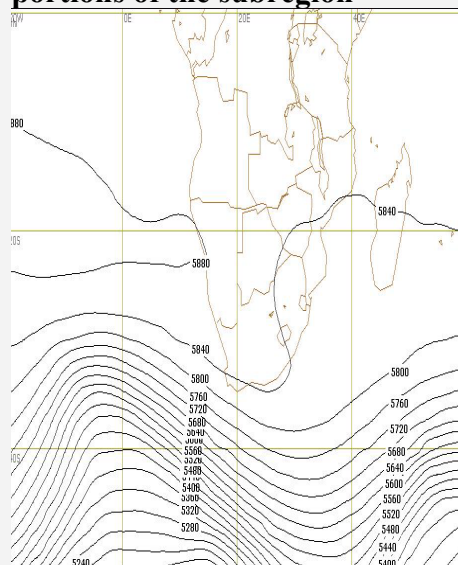


Fig.3 500 hPa geopotential heights as projected for 12 Dec 2004 00:00UTC (Source ECMWF/PUMA)

EASTERN SECTOR
(Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi)

Occasional heavy falls are expected over Malawi, Mozambique and some places in the southwestern parts of Tanzania.

CENTRAL SECTOR
(Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe)

Moderate to heavy rains are expected over northwestern Zambia. Light to moderate are largely expected across Zimbabwe and Botswana.

NORTHWESTERN SECTOR
(DRC and Angola)

Light to Moderate rains are forecast from time to time over much of the sector

<p>SOUTHWESTERN AND INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS (Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles)</p>	<p>Occasional heavy falls are expected to occur over Madagascar. Moderate to heavy rain is expected Mauritius and Seychelles during most of the forecast period.</p>
<p>SOUTHERN SECTOR (South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland)</p>	<p>Mainly dry in the southwestern part of Namibia and South Africa especially during the latter part of the forecast period. However, it is expected to be wet over Lesotho, Swaziland and southeastern parts of South Africa.</p>

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